

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant respectfully submits that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 7, 2005, was properly filed with respect to the foreign language French reference FR 1 342 888. As explained in the Communication filed with the Information Disclosure Statement, the reference was cited in a search report from the European Patent Office issued on the corresponding PCT Application. The search report indicated the degree of relevance found by the European Patent Office and satisfies applicant's duty to provide a statement of relevance of the reference in accordance with 1138 OG 38 of May 19, 1992, and MPEP § 609a(3). Also, the undersigned has conducted a database search and it does not appear that an English language Abstract for the French reference is publicly available.

In any event, applicant respectfully submits that any potential relevance of the French reference with respect to the claims as amended herein is readily ascertainable from the figures of the reference

REMARKS

With the present Amendment, independent claim 1 remains and has been amended. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, and 14 depend from claim 1. Claim 30 is a remaining independent claim. Claims 4, 5, 9, 13, and 15 through 29 have been cancelled.

Of the remaining claims, claims 1, 2, 10, 12, and 14 were rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by Seketa '816, as set forth in section 3 of the Office Action. Claims 1-3, 10, 12, 14, and 30 were rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by Martin '174, as set forth in section 4 of the Office Action. Claims 6, 8, and 11 were also rejected under § 103 as obvious in view of Seketa '816, as set forth in sections 5 through 7 of the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims as amended and presented herein patentably distinguish over the various cited references for at least the reasons set forth below.

As amended herein, claim 1 calls for the protective glove to have a first portion that is configured for tightly fitting on at least a portion of the user's hand. The first portion is made of a first material that directly contacts the user's hand. The second portion is made of a different material than the first portion and is attached to the first portion in at least one finger stall of the glove. The second portion is completely circumscribed by the first portion at the finger tip area of the stall so as to not extend completely around the finger stall. The second portion has a higher tactility than the first portion such that the user may more easily feel through the second portion at their

finger tips as compared to the first portion. This unique combination of features is not anticipated by Seketa '816 or Martin '174.

Referring to Seketa '816, the glove according to this reference is formed from a single film material. Referring to Figs. 5a, 5b, and 5c, the single layer of material increases in thickness in a direction extending from the distal phalangeal segments of the glove to the forearm. Flex points 37, 33 are provided at the joints of the gloves in order to accommodate the greater thickness areas of the glove. The ovoid areas 51 are described at column 3, lines 29 through 34, as areas of the glove at the distal segments that are constructed of a thinner thickness of the film to allow for greater tactile sensation. These ovoid areas 51 may have an additional film or an embossed design to increase gripping ability. However, in all embodiments disclosed and described in Seketa '816, the entire glove is made of a continuous film having varying degrees of thickness with a particular flex structure at the joint areas of the glove. The glove of Seketa '816 does not have a second highly tactile material that is attached to the first portion in the finger tip areas of the finger stalls so as to directly contact the user's finger tips. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended and presented herein is not anticipated by Seketa '816.

Martin '174 describes an embodiment that utilizes two separate glove components. An inner glove 3 is donned by the user and an outer glove 2 is then donned over the inner glove. The finger stalls of the inner glove extend through openings in the outer glove 2, as can readily be seen in Figs. 1a and 1b. Accordingly, Martin '174 does not disclose a glove having a second material portion that is attached to the first portion in the finger tip area of at least one finger stall, as called for in

amended claim 1. The glove system according to Martin '174 is fundamentally different than the glove as set forth in amended claim 1 and applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 patentably defines over Martin '174.

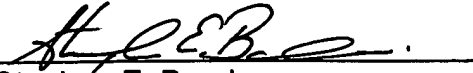
Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, and 14 only further patentably define the invention of claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable.

As mentioned above, independent claim 30 was rejected as anticipated by Martin '174. However, claim 30 calls for the glove to have a first portion configured to cover the entire hand of the user, and for a second separate portion to be made of polypropylene and attached to the first portion. In the second orientation of the glove, the second portion is exposed and covers the entire tip of the user's index finger. As described above, with the system according to Martin '174, the inner glove covers the entire hand of the user, and the outer glove is disposed over the inner glove. The system according to Martin does not have a separate piece of polypropylene material attached to the outer glove at the index finger region. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 30 is not anticipated by Martin '174 and is allowable.

With the present Amendment, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at her convenience should she have any questions regarding this matter or to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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